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Viewing cable 08SANJOSE883, COSTA RICA TO VOTE WITH USG ON KEY THIRD COMMITTEE

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08SANJOSE883**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08SANJOSE883	2008-11-13 13:47	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy San Jose

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-12/Investigacion/NotasDestacadas/Investigacion2711772.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasDestacadas/Investigacion2707705.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2707712.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2707716.aspx>

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSJ #0883 3181347
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 131347Z NOV 08
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0258
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 4328
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 4144
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0807

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 000883

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA, WHA/CEN, IO, IO/UNP, DRL AND DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/12/2018

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SUBJECT: COSTA RICA TO VOTE WITH USG ON KEY THIRD COMMITTEE
RESOLUTIONS

Classified By: DCM Peter Brennan per 1.4(d)

1.(C) Under direction from the Ambassador, on November 10, DCM and Pol/C raised Ref A demarche with MFA senior staff Antonio Alarcon and Alex Solano. Alarcon is FM Stagno's COS, and handled Third Committee issues when he was assigned to the Costa Rican UN mission. Alex Solano is the Deputy Director for Foreign Policy. We expressed USG gratitude for Costa Rica's continued opposition to no-action motions in the Third Committee, and, noting that Iran was a particular priority, we urged the GOCR to vote again in favor of substantive motions on Iran, Burma, and the DPRK, as they did in 2007. We also asked Costa Rica's help in stiffening the support on these issues from regional neighbors Panama and Colombia. IO's country-specific non-papers on all three countries were very useful (but would have been even more so in Spanish); we delivered these as part of the demarche.

12. (C) Alarcon and Solano quickly responded that Costa Rica would continue to oppose no-action motions as a matter of principle, and would vote in favor of substantive motions on all three countries. The two indicated that the GOCR expected our demarche, which followed a similar approach to the GOCR mission in New York by USUN. Solano explained that Japanese diplomats had recently demarched the MFA to consider softening the GOCR's position vis-a-vis a DPRK resolution in hopes of improving the DPRK's cooperation in the Six Party talks. The MFA refused to change its views and link the two initiatives. On Iran, Solano voiced Costa Rican concerns about discrimination against religious groups, in particular Christians, but also other groups such as Bahais. On Burma, Solano said that the regime's human rights violations were well-known and long-standing; of course Costa Rica would continue to call for change there. As we reported in Ref B, however, Solano re-iterated the GOCR's reluctance to co-sponsor resolutions (in the Third Committee or elsewhere) unless Costa Rica's views and specific language proposals were given due consideration.

13. (C) Solano expected Colombia to continue to abstain in Third Committee votes this year, to avoid inviting attacks on its own human rights situation. He doubted the GOC could be persuaded to change that position. Solano was slightly more optimistic about Panama, based on deeper Costa Rica-Panama relations opened by President Torrijos' October visit. Neither Solano nor Alarcon explicitly promised that the GOCR would lobby Panama on Third Committee issues, however, (and as noted in Ref A, Panama and Costa Rica voted with the USG position on the Iran, Burman and DPRK resolutions in 2007, anyway).

CIANCHETTE